

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01721 221559Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----085283 221601Z /43

O 221540Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 527
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KUWAIT 1721

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, ME, LE, KU
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) BEIRUT 1540, (B) KUWAIT 1708.

1. I FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO MFA UNDERSEC RASHID AL-RASHID
AT DIPLOMATIC CORPS TEA FOR VISITING MALTESE FONMIN
MINTOFF. HE SAID ABDUL-SAMAD HAD RELAYED MY DEMARCHE
EARLIER TODAY (MAR. 22) TO HIM (REF. B).

2. I SOUGHT TO CONVEY TO HIM CONCERN EXPRESSED IN
REF. A AND URGED STRONGLY THAT GOK, WHICH HAD GOOD
RELATIONS WITH PLO, TO CONVINCE THEM TO ACCEPT CEASE-
FIRE SO THAT FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR WITHDRAWAL WOULD EXIST.
RASHID SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO BISHARA, THE PLO IN NEW YORK
HAD INDICATED IT WOULD OBSERVE THE CEASE-FIRE.

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01721 221559Z

3. I ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE PASSAGE THROUGH
SYRIA OF IRAQI TRUCK CONVOYS INTO LEBANON AND INDICATED
THAT, ACCORDING TO MY INFORMATION, THE SYRIANS DID NOT
PLAN TO PREVENT THEIR PASSAGE. I NOTED THAT, IN THE IRAQI
TRUCK CONVOY, THERE HAD BEEN OBSERVED A NUMBER OF KUWAITI
TRUCKS. AL-RASHID SAID THAT THOSE TRUCKS WERE

PROBABLY TRANSPORTING MEDICAL SUPPLIES, TENTS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WHICH KUWAIT WAS SENDING TO LEBANON TO HELP EASE THE REFUGEE SITUATION. I SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF THE KUWAITI TRUCKS ON THIS HUMANITARIAN ERRAND DID NOT JOIN IRAQI TRUCK CONVOYS WHICH WERE SUSPECTED OF CARRYING MILITARY WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION.

4. I AGAIN ASKED THAT THE GOK DO WHAT IT COULD TO CONVINCE THE PLO TO OBSERVE THE CEASE-FIRE AND TO INSURE THAT ANY HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IT WAS UNDERTAKING WERE NOT MISUNDERSTOOD. AL-RASHID PROMISED TO TAKE THIS UP PROMPTLY WITH FONMIN TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE.

5. COMMENT: BOUTROS AND PARKER ARE PROBABLY RIGHT ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE KUWAITIS TO BRING ANY PRESSURE TO BEAR ON THIS AFFAIR, BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON NOT GET OUT OF HAND. I EXPECT THEY WILL FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE THEIR SMALL VOICE HEARD BY THE PLO FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH.
MAESTRONE

SECRET

NNN

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